

a NIOSH sponsored symposium

# Worksite resources for health promotion and health protection of workers

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**Washington DC** 



#### What is AIHA?

And how does it relate to workplace wellness?





Our Mission...

...to promote, protect, and enhance industrial hygienists and other occupational health, safety, and environmental professionals in their efforts to improve the health and well being of workers, the community, and the environment.

#### **AIHA Overview**



- 12,000 member strong organization founded in 1939
  - 57 person staff
  - Headquartered in Fairfax VA
- 75 local sections (chapters)
  - Separate organizations that work closely with the national organization
- Operation Outreach program
- OSHA alliance
- Liaisons with over 30 other organizations



## Who are industrial hygiene professionals?

Today's IH does not just hang pumps and take samples



#### Professionals whose work includes:

- Investigating and examining the workplace for hazards and potential dangers
- Ensuring that workers are properly following health and safety procedures
  - Investigating workplaces for hazards
  - Making recommendations to improve health and safety practices and equipment
  - Training workers on how to perform their jobs safely



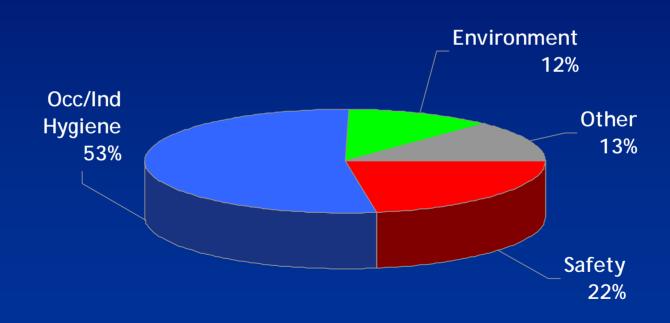
- Conducting scientific research to provide data on possible harmful conditions in the workplace
- Advising government officials and participating in the development of regulations to ensure the health and safety of workers and their families



- Work often includes community exposures and hazardous waste
- Making recommendations on improving the safety of workers and the surrounding community
- Developing techniques to anticipate and control potentially dangerous situations in the workplace and the community
- Training and educating the community about job-related risks





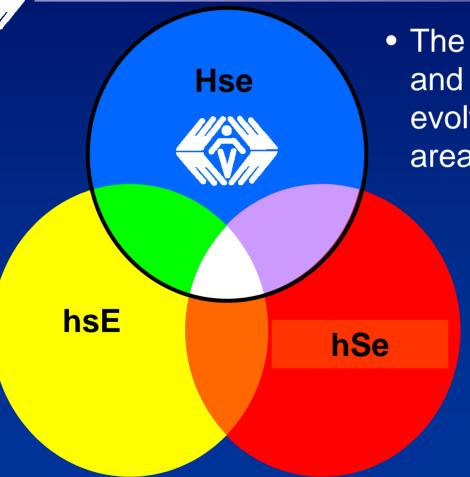




# Where do industrial hygienists work?

- Factories and manufacturing plants
- Corporate headquarters or offices
- Government agencies
- Universities and colleges
- Consulting firms
- Independent consultants
- Hospitals and healthcare facilities
- Domestic and international locations

## What is the OHSE Profession? ...and what is AIHA's role?



 The occupational health, safety, and environmental profession evolved from three distinct areas of expertise

> Professional associations have evolved to keep pace with the profession



# What resources can AIHA provide related to workplace wellness?

#### **Technical Committees**



- More than 30 technical committees
  - Including three ANSI Secretariats plus other members serving as ANSI committee members or observers
- Develop guidelines, standards, publications, and position papers
- "Experts on call"

### IH Technical Specialties



- Biological monitoring
- Construction
- Environmental issues
- Ergonomics
- Exposure assessment strategies
- Indoor environmental quality
- Ionizing radiation
- Noise
- Nonionizing radiation

- Management
- Occupational epidemiology
- Occupational & environmental medicine
- Risk assessment
- Safety
- Social concerns
- Stewardship and sustainability
- Workplace environmental exposure levels

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### Special Interest Groups



- Indoor
  Environmental
  Quality
- Academic
- Consulting
- Minority
- Environment
- Engineering

- Less formal than committees
- Provide an opportunity for members with similar interests to exchange ideas and information

#### Information Resources



- Periodicals
  - The Synergist
  - Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene
  - Essential Connection online newsletter
- Alha Press
  - Books, CDs/DVDs, technical manuals, self-study courses, standards documents
- OEHS Central

#### OEHS Central: Online Resource

Over 2 dozen topics

- Regulations
- Consensus Standards
- Guidelines
- References
- Professional organizations
- Websites and other resources
- Journals

#### Chapter 4 Occupational Toxicology

- 1. Regulations: United States
- 1.1 OSHA PELs

Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs). Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards applicable to general industry.

- 2. Consensus Standards
- 2.1 BEST standards

National Research Council's Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology, National

- 3. Guidelines
- 3.1 AIHA ERPGs and WEELs

AIHA 2004 Emergency Response Planning Guidelines and Workplace Environmental Exposure Level Guides Handbook (ERPCs/WFFLs), Fairfax, VA, AIHA Press, 2004.

- 4. Reference Books, Handbooks, Textbooks, and Review Articles
- 4.1 Chemical hazard information: Industrial Chemical Thesaurus Industrial Chemical Thesaurus, 2nd ed., vol. 1, Chemical to Tradename Reference; vol. 2. Tradename to Chemical Cross Reference, by M. Ash and I. Ash. New York: VCH
  - 5. Professional Organizations and Homepages
  - 5.1 Society of Toxicology

Society of Toxicology, 1767 Business Center Dr. Suite 302, Reston, VA 20190.

- 6. Other Resources and Websites
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National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, P.O. Box 12233, Office of Communications, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

- 7. Journals
- 7.1 IA

Journal of Applied Toxicology

Website: http://www.interscience.wiley.com/jpages/0260-437X

 This journal publishes original research, theoretical and literature reviews relating to the toxicity of drugs and chemicals to living systems at the molecular, cellular, tissue and target organ level.

#### Published Resources



- Developed by AIHA committees
  - Workplace Environmental Exposure Levels (WEELs)
  - Emergency Response Planning Guidelines (ERPGs)
- Over 100 publications from AIHA Press
  - Books
  - Symposia proceedings
  - Industry standards and guidelines
  - Educational courses

#### **Education Resources**



- Professional development courses
- Symposia
- Traveling seminars
- Distance learning
- Teleweb virtual seminars
- Web courses

#### **Annual Conferences**



- Professional Conference on Industrial Hygiene (PCIH)
  - Focus on emerging technologies and issues and advanced technical topics
- American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition (AIHce)
  - Large exhibition
  - Professional education courses
  - Roundtables/technical sessions



- Industrial Hygiene Laboratory Accreditation
  - Since 1974
- Environmental Lead Laboratory Accreditation
  - Since 1992
- Environmental Microbiology Laboratory Accreditation
  - Since 1998
- Food Laboratory Accreditation
  - Since 2001



### Tracking public policy issues



#### Current "Top Ten" list includes...

- "Non-traditional" hazards and emerging issues
  - IEQ and mold
  - Nanotechnology
  - Impact of environmental standards on workplace air quality
- Regulatory actions/non-actions in traditional areas (e.g., PELs)





- Building a Corporate Wellness Program
- Musculoskeletal Wellness Program: A Case Study
- Why Have Wellness Programs at the Worksite
- HSE Professionals are Crucial to the Success of Company Wellness Programs (and vice versa)
- Responsibilities of the OM Physician
- Injury Prevention: Work Well



- Electronic and printed resources
  - Source for accurate information for the media, the public and health and wellness professionals
- Access to experts in general occupational health and specialty areas
  - OHSE professionals who understand the inter-related nature of occupational health and wellness



- Education for professionals and the public
  - Fostering the dissemination of good science
- Advocating sound guidance and standards of best practice
  - Technical excellence and responsible policies

Industrial hygienists are dedicated to protecting people in the workplace and the community

#### THANK YOU!



#### American Industrial Hygiene Association

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